## CLAIMS

1. A lockout valve comprising:

a valve body having a housing with an inlet conduit at one end of a central chamber and an outlet conduit at an other end of said central chamber, such that said inlet conduit, central chamber and outlet conduit form a continuous passageway, and a valve slide channel extending transversely therethrough said housing between an upper opening in an upper end of said housing and a lower opening in a lower end of said housing;

a slide mechanism slidingly disposed in said valve slide channel to operatively control fluid flow through said passageway between an open position, an intermediate position and a closed position, wherein said slide mechanism is generally planar and includes an upper end and a lower end each having a radially extending flange and two side edges extending therebetween said upper end and said lower end, and having a front side facing toward said inlet conduit and a back side facing toward said outlet conduit, and a plurality of flow apertures extending therethrough said slide mechanism and arranged in a predetermined pattern to restrict flow through said passageway in an intermediate position;

wherein said front side of said slide mechanism includes a detent slot having a predetermined length, width and depth, and said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending override slot having an upper portion with a first predetermined length, width and depth positioned opposite said detent slot to form a continuous opening through said slide

mechanism, and having a lower portion with a second predetermined length, width and depth extending partially therethrough said slide mechanism; and

a detent mechanism for overriding the intermediate position of said slide mechanism including a detent override lever partially disposed in said housing with a finger member extending from an edge of said detent override lever within said housing, a spring member located in a recess in said housing and a ball member located in the housing recess, such that the ball member is positioned between the spring and the detent override lever, wherein said ball is located in an upper portion of said detent slot when said slide mechanism is in a closed position and travels through said detent slot concurrent with said slide mechanism sliding through the valve slide channel until said ball reaches a bottom edge of the detent slot and actuation of said detent override lever engages said override finger within the lower end of said override slot to push said ball into the recessed area of said housing so that said slide mechanism bypasses the intermediate position.

2. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a connecting means disposed on an outer end.

3. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a sealing means operatively disposed on an inner end, respectively.

4. The lockout valve of claim 3 wherein said sealing means is an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said inlet conduit and an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said outlet conduit.

5. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said slide mechanism includes indicia on a front side or a back side of said slide mechanism indicating either one of an open position or a closed position of said valve.

6. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said slide mechanism includes a lockout aperture for preventing movement of said slide mechanism within said valve slide channel.

7. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said slide mechanism detent slot is centrally positioned between said upper end and said lower end, and adjacent a side edge, of said slide mechanism.

8. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein an upper end of said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending exhaust slot having a predetermined length, width and depth that is adjacent a vent passageway in said valve housing when said slide mechanism is in a closed position.

9. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said detent ball slidingly travels from a lower end of said detent slot to an upper end of said detent slot as said slide mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between the open and closed position to stop fluid flow through the passageway.

10. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said detent ball slidingly travels through said detent slot until reaching an edge of the detent slot as said slide mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between either one of the open position or the closed position and the intermediate position, to restrict fluid flow through the passageway.

11. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said valve body includes two housing members joined together using a fastening means.

12. A lockout valve comprising:

a valve body having a housing with an inlet conduit at one end of a central chamber and an outlet conduit at an other end of said central chamber, such that said inlet conduit, central chamber and outlet conduit form a continuous passageway, wherein said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a sealing means operatively disposed on an inner end respectively and said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a connecting means disposed on an outer end respectively;

a valve slide channel within said housing and extending transversely therethrough said housing between an upper opening in an upper end of said housing and a lower opening in a lower end of said housing;

a slide mechanism slidingly disposed in said valve slide channel to operatively control fluid flow through said passageway between an open position, an intermediate position and a closed position, wherein said slide mechanism is generally planar and includes an upper end and a lower end each having a radially extending flange and two side edges extending therebetween said upper end and said lower end, and having a front side facing toward said inlet conduit and a back side facing toward said outlet conduit, and a plurality of flow apertures extending therethrough said slide mechanism and arranged in a predetermined pattern to restrict flow through said passageway in an intermediate position;

wherein said front side of said slide mechanism includes a detent slot having a predetermined length, width and depth and said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending override slot having an upper portion with a first predetermined length, width and depth positioned opposite said detent slot to form a continuous opening through said slide mechanism, and having a lower portion with a second predetermined length, width and depth extending partially through said slide mechanism; and

a detent mechanism for overriding the intermediate position of said slide mechanism including a detent override lever partially disposed in said housing with a finger member extending from an edge of said detent override

lever within said housing, a spring member located in a recess in said housing and a ball member located in the housing recess, such that the ball member is positioned between the spring and the detent override lever, wherein said ball is located in an upper portion of said detent slot when said slide mechanism is in a closed position and travels through said detent slot concurrent with said slide mechanism sliding through the valve slide channel until said ball reaches a bottom edge of the detent slot, and actuation of said detent override lever engages said override finger within the lower end of said override slot to push said ball into the recessed area of the housing so that said slide mechanism bypasses the intermediate position and said detent ball slidingly travels from a lower end of said detent slot to an upper end of said detent slot as said slide mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between the open position and the closed position.

13. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein said sealing means is an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said inlet conduit and an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said outlet conduit.

14. The lockout valve of claim 1 wherein said slide mechanism includes indicia on a front side or a back side of said slide channel indicating either one of an open position or a closed position of said valve.

15. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein said slide mechanism includes a lockout aperture for preventing movement of said slide mechanism within said slide channel.

16. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein said slide mechanism detent slot is centrally positioned between said upper end and said lower end, and adjacent a side edge, of said slide mechanism.

17. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein an upper end of said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending exhaust slot having a predetermined length, width and depth that is adjacent a vent passageway in said valve housing when said slide mechanism is in a closed position.

18. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein said detent ball slidingly travels through said detent slot until reaching an edge of the detent slot as said slide mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between either one of the open position or the closed position and the intermediate position, to restrict fluid flow through the passageway.

19. The lockout valve of claim 12 wherein said valve body includes two housing members joined together using a fastening means.

20. A lockout valve comprising:

a valve body having a housing with an inlet conduit at one end of a central chamber and an outlet conduit at an other end of said central chamber, such that said inlet conduit, central chamber and outlet conduit form a continuous passageway, wherein said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a sealing means operatively disposed on an inner end respectively and said inlet conduit and said outlet conduit each include a connecting means disposed on an outer end respectively;

a valve slide channel within said housing and extending transversely therethrough said housing between an upper opening in an upper end of said housing and a lower opening in a lower end of said housing;

a slide mechanism slidingly disposed in said valve slide channel to operatively control fluid flow through said passageway between an open position, an intermediate position and a closed position, wherein said slide mechanism is generally planar and includes an upper end and a lower end each having a radially extending flange and two side edges extending therebetween said upper end and said lower end, and having a front side facing toward said inlet conduit and a back side facing toward said outlet conduit and a plurality of flow apertures extending therethrough said slide mechanism and arranged in a predetermined pattern to restrict flow through said passageway in an intermediate position, and a lockout aperture for preventing movement of said slide mechanism within said valve slide channel;

indicia on a front side or a back side of said slide mechanism indicating either one of an open position or a closed position of the valve;

wherein said front side of said slide mechanism includes a detent slot having a predetermined length, width and depth and said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending override slot having an upper portion with a first predetermined length, width and depth positioned opposite said detent slot to form a continuous opening through said slide mechanism, and having a lower portion with a second predetermined length, width and depth extending partially through said slide mechanism; and

a detent mechanism for overriding the intermediate position of said slide mechanism including a detent override lever partially disposed in said housing with a finger member extending from an edge of said detent override lever within said housing, a spring member located in a recess in said housing and a ball member located in the housing recess, such that the ball member is positioned between the spring and the detent override finger, wherein said ball is located in an upper portion of said detent slot when said slide mechanism is in a closed position and travels through said detent slot concurrent with said slide mechanism sliding through the valve slide channel until said ball reaches a bottom edge of the detent slot, and actuation of said detent override lever engages said override finger within the lower end of said override slot to push said ball into the recessed area of the housing so that said slide mechanism bypasses the intermediate position and said detent ball slidingly travels from a lower end of said detent slot to an upper end of said detent slot as said slide

mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between the open position and the closed position to stop fluid flow through the passageway and said detent ball slidingly travels through said detent slot until reaching an edge of the detent slot as said slide mechanism slides through said valve slide channel between either one of the open position or the closed position and the intermediate position, to restrict fluid flow through the passageway.

21. The lockout valve of claim 20 wherein said sealing means is an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said inlet conduit and an o-ring disposed in an annular channel formed in an inside surface of said housing about an inner end of said outlet conduit.

22. The lockout valve of claim 21 wherein said slide mechanism detent slot is centrally positioned between said upper end and said lower end, and adjacent a side edge, of said slide mechanism.

23. The lockout valve of claim 21 wherein an upper end of said back side of said slide mechanism includes a longitudinally extending exhaust slot having a predetermined length, width and depth that is adjacent a vent passageway in said valve housing when said slide mechanism is in a closed position.

24. The lockout valve of claim 21 wherein said valve body includes two housing members joined together using a fastening means.